Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

The instant amendment cancels claims 2-6 and 8 and amends claims 1, 7, and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds claims 10 and 11. After the entry of the instant amendment, the claims will be:

1. (Amended) Loose particulate material for use in waste water treatment, said material characterised by granules of plastics material carrying weighting material so that the particles have an average density of approximately 1.0g/cc, the weighting material being grains of sodium chloride and being incorporated substantially wholly within the granules such that the grains of sodium chloride are substantially unexposed at the surfaces of the granules, and the surfaces of the granules being provided with concavities to provide a habitat for microorganisms effective in waste water treatment.

7. (Amended) A method of manufacture of loose particulate material for use in waste water treatment, said method comprising incorporating a weighting material within granules of plastics material so that the weighting material is substantially wholly carried within the granules and the particles have an average density of approximately 1.0g/cc, and contacting the granules with grains of a soluble substance, at an elevated temperature, to coat the granules with the soluble substance grains, and subsequently dissolving the soluble substance grains from the coating to provide the surfaces of the granules with concavities to serve as a habitat for

microorganisms effective in waste water treatment, the weighting material and the soluble substance grains both being grains of sodium chloride.

9. (Amended) A waste water treatment method characterised by charging a treatment vessel with waste water and loose particulate material according to claim 1, and aerating the waste water by means of aerators.

Please add the following new claims:

10. A method of treating waste water, the method comprising:

placing loose particulate material in a vessel, the material characterised by granules of plastics material carrying weighting material so that the particles have an average density of approximately 1.0g/cc, the weighting material being grains of sodium chloride and being incorporated substantially wholly within the granules such that the grains of sodium chloride are substantially unexposed at the surfaces of the granules, and the surfaces of the granules being provided with concavities to provide a habitat for microorganisms effective in waste water treatment; and

circulating waste water in the vessel, to contact the waste water with microorganisms in the concavities.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein circulating includes circulating the the particulate material in the vessel.